

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1-14, as follows:

1. (Original) Apparatus for compacting fine particulate earth or sand material around an elongate member laid in a trench, said apparatus including at least one disc member having a plurality of teeth like formations around its periphery and mount means for said at least one disc member permitting said disc member to roll through said fine particulate material in said trench, said mount means including connection means enabling said apparatus to be connected to machinery for moving the apparatus along said trench.

2. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein ~~two said disc members are provided spaced apart but rotatable about a common axis,~~ said mount means including a shaft interconnecting said disc members.

3. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 2 wherein the spacing distance between said disc members is selectably adjustable.

4. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1 wherein said teeth like formations have a square or rectangular shape.

5.-9 (Cancelled)

10. (Original A method of laying and embedding a pipeline or similar elongate member in a trench, said method involving the steps of:

(i) depositing fine particulate bedding material into the trench for use as bedding under the elongate member;

(ii) placing first apparatus in the trench, said first apparatus having

spaced side wall means supported by support means resting on a base of said trench with said side wall means located adjacent respective side walls of said trench, said first apparatus also including a transverse wall member having a lower edge spaced upwardly from the base of said trench;

(iii) moving said first apparatus along said trench while said transverse wall member spreads said fine particulate material and the lower edge of said transverse wall means provides a level surface for said fine particulate material;

(iv) laying said elongate member on said level surface of said fine particulate material;

(v) depositing a further quantity of fine particulate material into said trench such that said further quantity at least partially fills the space between said elongate member and the side walls of the trench;

(vi) passing a second apparatus along said trench at least once, said second apparatus including at least one disc member having a plurality of teeth like formations around its periphery whereby the or each said disc member rolls through said fine particulate material on either side of said elongate member; and

(vii) back filling the trench.

11. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~claim 10~~ claim 5 wherein the trench is back filled with previously excavated material from the trench.

12. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~claim 10 or claim 11~~ claim 5 wherein the fine particulate material is provided to the trench site from a remote source.

13. (Cancelled)

Applicant: Wayne Gregory Mitchell
Application No.: Not Yet Known

14. (Original) A method according to claim 13 wherein the second apparatus is passed along said trench only once.